Jan. 13, 1977

Dear _____,

I am Allen Quin's oldest daughter and very interested in my family history. With the help of the Serra Museum and Ah Quin's relatives, I hope to learn more about Ah Quin and his deseendants.

If you have any material concerning Ah Quin, (pictures, newspaper clippings, and other pertinent data) I would appreciate it if you send copies of them, or, if you prefer, you could send the originals which I will copy and send back to you by return mail.

Enclosed is a genealogical form. Please fill out the information concerning your family. If any of your children are married or have children, please fill out another form concerning them. Your needed contributions will be used to create a family tree.

The collected information will expand the existing data on Ah Quin at the Serra Museum and will help future generations trace their lineage to the first Chinese family in San Diego.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Rose Quin

Mrs. Walter Kong
815 Anacapa Street
El Paseo Studio C
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93102

VIA AIR MAIL

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January 19th 1977

Dear Cynthia Rose:

I am delighted that you are taking time and interest in tracing the history of our family. Humbly, I am happy to be part of that pioneering Tom Ah Quin family for I realize what faith and courage Grand Father + Grand Mother had when they were married in San Francisco 1880 and came to San Diego to establish a General store on the corner of 3rd + J - and not to mention raising a family of 12 children.

Before I chat on with you, I want to invite you, your folks and Brothers + sisters to come to visit me. I will share with you any informations I have. While you are here, Cousin Helen will give you a tour of Santa Barbara, to the historical society, and even drive you around the County to Solvang or La Purrisoma Mission. Just let me know when you are coming and I will give you a warm welcome. Your Dad and Mother came here on their honey-moon. Kindly tell them I have wonderful memories of their holiday and that your Dad came to see Uncle Walter + me when he was stationed at Camp Roberts not far from S.B.

For additional information - if you don't mind Kindly walk into the S.D. Tribune year 1911 - what month I am not sure - you will find an account of your Grand Father's marriage to your Grand Mother + my Father's marriage to my Mother (Chilly Suey Wah). These two Brothers went to Canton to be married. Upon their return Grand Father And Grand Mother gave them a big wedding reception. If you find that article, let me know.

Our family name is Tom or Hom. Grand-Father's given name was Ah Quin. When Grand Father came to this Country, his Chinese surname was first + given name last. The American called him Tom Ah Quin

using his given name as a surname. Grand Father Quin worked in the railroad & later as a labor contractor - who recruited Chinese laborers. He and his Brother (who died in S.B) came to S.B. to live & to work. In one of the old newsclipping it talked about the Chinese Pres. mission trying to raise money for newyear by selling Chinese dinners. After dinner - Sr Quin led the Chinese in service and expressed the thanks & appreciations of those who attended. He was converted by the Pres. Mission Chinese church. Before he came to S.B - he was in Alaska. If I am not mistaken - I know he was born in 1849 - came to America at the age of 15. - married to our Grand Mother at the age of 32. Our Grand Mother's name was Leong & her age of marriage was 18.

Your Grand Father (George) was their eldest son. My Father was Thomas A Quin. He married my Mother in Canton Jan 8th 1911. I am their only offspring. - Helen Quin Kong born June 15th 1912. I was married to Walter Y. L. Kong in June 24th 1931. He was born in Honolulu - Hawaii in 1906. He died in January 12th 1976. We have one son - Thomas Quin Kong born June 27th 1932. He is a physician (cardiologist) in Ventura, California. He ~~was~~ & his wife Patricia (married on Sept 23rd 1962) have 4 sons - Thomas Quin Kong, Jr. 1963 Michael Kong 1965 - Peter Kong (1967) & Stephen Walter Kong 1968. I hope I haven't tired you what all kinds of statistics.

When you are through with this project, let me read it as I would be more than interested. It takes time & lots of research. I guess Aunt Maggie Kelly, the last of the Quin's surviving daughter could give you more information than I can. Whatever you put together will be a great interest to all the heirs of our family.

Please write & tell me something of yourself, your Brothers & sisters. Please tell your Folks that I think of them often & am so happy you wrote. If you don't mind, Aunty Helen would be ever so happy if you took this little check to treat your folks & brothers & sisters to a big plate of chow mein. Give my regards to your Grand mother.

With my affectionate regards to you -

Aunty Helen